

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

RSR-01 IO-13 /103 W

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R 132041Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4799

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2880

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN, CS

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER TACK

TO VISIT COSTA RICA?

REF: PANAMA 4254

1. THIS MORNING LA NACION ANNOUNCES
A "SOLIDARITY WEEK WITH PANAMA" ORGANIZED
BY THE ASSOCIATION OF POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF COSTA RICA
AND THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY. THIS IS TO
TAKE PLACE NOT FOR A WEEK BUT AUGUST 16, 17
AND 18. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, FOREIGN
MINISTER TACK, THE FOLKLORE BALLET OF PANAMA,
COMDUNTO POP 2000, AND THE CONJUNTO
FOLKLORICO, AS WELL AS "MEMBERS OF THE
PANAMAINIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY" ARE TO

PARTICIPATE. ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE
PRINTED IN THE PAPER, FOREIGN MINISTER
TACK IS SCHEDULED TO GIVE A LECTURE
ON THE CANAL PROBLEM AT 5:00 PM ON

AUGUST 16, PARTICIPATE IN A ROUND-
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TABLE WITH STUDENTS ON AUGUST 17, AND

APPEAR ON TV WITH DR. LUIS BURSTEIN ON
THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17.

2. THIS MORNING DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S
CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO,
HE SAID TO FACIO THAT HE HAD NOTED THAT
TACK WAS COMING TO COSTA RICA TO TALK
ABOUT THE CANAL. FACIO ACTED SURPRISED
AND SAID HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS. HE
SAID HE HAD NOT SEEN THE STORY IN THE PAPER
AND SAID, "THIS IS VERY STRANGE". HE SAID
HE WAS GOING TO CALL THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR
RIGHT AWAY.

3. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THIS MEANS
BUT FIND IT CURIOUS THAT FACIO WOULD BE
UNAWARE IF SUCH DETAILS WERE BEING DIS-
CUSSED OR THAT AMBASSADOR PERE WOULD NOT
HAVE ALERTED THE CHANCERY. BUT IF THAT
IS THE CASE WHY FACIO SHOULD DENY KNOWLEDGE
OF IT TO THE AMBASSADOR IS CURIOUS. THE
FOREIGN MINISTER'S LACK OF KNOWLEDGE OF THE
TACK VISIT IS RENDERED EVEN MORE
CURIOUS IN THE LIGHT OF PRESIDENT FIGUERES'S
QUOTED REMARKS DURING HIS WEEKLY PRESS
CONFERENCE ON AUGUST 9 WHEN HE REPORTEDLY
TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE PANAMANIAN FOREIGN
MINISTER WOULD BE IN COSTA RICA ON
AUGUST 16 TO ADDRESS THE PANAMA
CANAL QUESTION IN A UNIVERSITY FORUM.
VAKY

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